

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

FCC 02-81

In the Matter of)	
)	
Improving Public Safety Communications)	CC Docket No. 02-55
in the 800 MHz Band)	
)	
Consolidating the 900 MHz Industrial/Land)	
Transportation and Business Pool Channels)	

COMMENT OF DANNY HAMPTON

I have been in the land mobile communications business since 1966. My primary focus in the business has been of a technical nature. I have implemented and maintained all major brands of conventional and Trunked radio systems. My first experience with multi channel trunked radio systems came in the late 1970s. In the mid 90s I became a employee of Nextel Communications. This happened when Nextel Communications merged with Dial Call Communications. My first assignment with Nextel was to oversee the maintenance of a large number of analog trunking systems located at a large number of sites which Nextel acquired via the merger. I performed this duty with a technical staff working under my supervision until such time as Nextel was ready to build out their digital iDEN network in the Carolinas. I then "moved to the digital side of the house." I have attended all of the technical training schools offered by Motorola and local Nextel Communications management pertaining to the iDEN technology. I was then tasked with taking the technical responsibility of maintaining each iDEN digital site in Central North Carolina once "the construction side of the house" had built the site and Motorola had signed off on the site's performance parameters.

In the early stages of the buildout, high technical standards were in place to insure that each site performed in a technically acceptable manner. As sales ramped up and the need for more channels at each individual site and the need for more sites in a hurry became essential, the buildout became a market driven task and many technical shortcuts were taken when sites were constructed. It became a massive numbers game as to how many sites could be turned up by a given date in time. Also, Nextel began to play manufacturers of antennas and combining equipment against each other to get "more performance for less money." Cavity combiners were replaced with hybrid combiners which allowed the addition of more channels at a given site in a smaller physical footprint within

the site equipment shelter. Unfortunately, this change along with several others caused the noise floor to increase dramatically at most sites. This is one of the major causes of interference to public safety and other SMR users of the 800 MHz spectrum.

It is my opinion that, given the proper workforce, supervised by the proper technically able managers, the most, if not all, of the current interference problems caused by Nextel Communications could be resolved without relocation of 800 MHz band incumbents or rebanding the 800 MHz band. This would require a site by site analysis as different fixes would need to be applied at various sites to resolve the issue. It is also my opinion that approximately 90 percent of the current Nextel technical maintenance staff would not have the ability to analyze these issues and resolve them. Many of the more technically qualified staff have either been asked to leave or have left on their own accord to seek other employment. My opinion is not to reflect negatively on Nextel's current technical staff, they have not been properly trained in resolving these matters as their day to day tasks involve keeping sites operating at the same level as when the sites were built and turned over to them to maintain.

I resigned my position in technical operations with Nextel in early 1999 to pursue another business opportunity. I left on good terms and have been called on by Nextel from time to time to consult on interference problems, usually to determine whether Nextel was causing the problem or not. Because of my relationship with local employees of Nextel Communications I have assisted in the resolution of these problems at no monetary charge to Nextel. I believe that the majority of this problem can and should be resolved by applying good engineering practices at each Nextel site and I believe this can be accomplished in a reasonable time frame and at a significantly lower cost than any proposed relocation or rebanding solution will cost.

Respectfully Submitted by

s/Danny Hampton
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